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Shannon Stokes, Research Analyst for the University of Missouri-Columbia Institute for Public Policy, reviews a stakeholder analysis matrix at the "Crafting Your Message" workshop at Lebanon-Laclede County Library on June 8.

Workshops Help Library Staff With Message, Mission

The State Library recently sponsored three regional workshops designed to help librarians from around the state identify tools and resources that will help them communicate their messages to the public. "Crafting Your Message: A Library Ambassadors Workshop for Library Directors and Staff" was presented in Poplar Bluff, Lebanon and Richmond in June 2006. Forty library staff and trustees from 35 different Missouri libraries attended the workshops. Nathaniel Albers, Elizabeth Holden and Shannon Stokes from the Institute of Public Policy at the University of Missouri-Columbia all contributed to the development and facilitation of the workshop.

The goal of the workshop was to provide

information that would build the professional capacity of librarians to serve as effective ambassadors for their libraries. Participants learned how to tailor messages to specific audiences, create an effective action plan, develop a lasting vision and mission statement for their library and convey the vision and mission of their library to their community.

Feedback from the workshop attendees showed that the information was useful for libraries interested in effective presentations, meeting management and community mobilization. "Anytime I attend a seminar that gives me one or two good ideas, I figure it is time well spent," said one participant. "This one gave me several."

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Videoconference Brings Artist to Young Readers

Russell Walks, illustrator of the 2006 Creature Feature statewide teen summer library program art, met with youth and adults in six public libraries via videoconference to discuss his career as a professional artist. Walks has created art based on licensed properties for a variety of clients while his award-winning children's themed work has appeared in an array of books and magazines. His clients include Lucasfilms (creator of *Star Wars*), Marvel Comics and the Topps Company, marketers for *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* trading cards. In addition to discussing his technique and the influence *Star Wars* had on his art, he offered advice for budding artists. To learn more about Walks, visit his Web site at www.russellwalks.com.

The summer library program videoconference event was coordinated by the State Library and MOREnet. The program took place with a live audience at Rolling Hills Consolidated Library in the morning and was broadcast to West Plains Library and St. Louis Public Library. In the afternoon, the program was live from Carrollton Public Library and was broadcast to Dunklin County Library and Little Dixie Regional Libraries. The State Library and MOREnet will work together to bring additional artists, authors and presenters to Missouri for videoconferenced events for public library patrons. To share your ideas for future presentations, please contact Nancee Dahms-Stinson at 800-325-0131, ext. 5 or nancee.dahms-stinson@sos.mo.gov.



Russell Walks, illustrator for Creature Feature and *Star Wars*, discusses his development as an artist with young readers at Rolling Hills Consolidated Library.

Scholarship Program Names Recipients, Recognizes Graduates



Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and the Missouri State Library recently awarded three new scholarships to Missourians working on their master's degrees in library science. Forty-eight students

have received support through the State Library Scholarship Program. Since 2003, the State Library has invested almost \$300,000 in the education of future librarians. The scholarship program was established to address Missouri's increasing need for qualified school, public and academic librarians. Scholarships cover tuition and applicable fees at colleges and universities in Missouri, and recipients must commit to work in a publicly funded Missouri library upon graduation.

Projections for the library profession indicate between 60 and 65 percent of currently practicing librarians will retire by 2020. In recent years, the number of retiring librari-

ans doubled that of library school graduates. In a 2001 report, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projected 39,000 future job openings for librarians due to retirements. Changing technology and demands of a knowledge-based economy are also transforming library science, creating new challenges for staffing in community libraries.

Recipients are selected based on the strength of their applications, transcripts, references and interviews. Scholarships were awarded to the following students, who are all pursuing their master's degrees in library science from the University of Missouri–Columbia:

- Michael Cohen, St. Louis, who currently works as the supervisor for the film library at the St. Louis Public Library.
- Patricia Corbett, Springfield, currently a librarian for Pierce City R-VI Middle and High School.
- Christa VanHerreweghe, St. Louis, currently a client technologies analyst for a corporation and adjunct faculty for St. Louis Community College in education and information systems.

Secretary Carnahan and the Missouri State Library also congratulate the following eight students who graduated from their library programs in May 2006:

- Carly Bachman, Kansas City, librarian for KC Research at Kansas City Public Library
- Lisa Farrell, Union, librarian at East Central College
- Diane Hansen, Smithville, library media specialist for Smithville High School
- Kelly Krause, Knob Noster, library media specialist for Knob Noster School District
- Jeanette Mausolf, St. Joseph, library media specialist for Smithville Middle School
- Stephanie Nordmann, St. Louis, system administration manager, St. Louis County Library
- Christine Spurling, Columbia, library media specialist for Columbia Public Schools

- Courtney Wheeler, Kansas City, library media specialist for North Kansas City Public School District.

A total of twenty-two scholarship recipients have graduated from Missouri library programs.

The Missouri State Library Scholarship program is supported by funds from the federal Library Services and Technology Act. Applicant criteria and application forms are available at www.sos.mo.gov/library/scholarship. Applications are due October 1 and April 1 of each year.

Virtually Missouri Holds “Digitization Expo” in St. Louis

The Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) held a successful Virtually Missouri Project Showcase Day in St. Louis on June 14. Organized by MLNC and funded by a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the State Library, the event drew 68 attendees and presenters from libraries, museums, archives and historical societies. The Virtually Missouri Web site coordinates access to digital collections and exhibits created by the cultural and scientific heritage institutions of Missouri. The Web site provides a way to add records to the Collections Inventory of Missouri Institutions and offers central access to digitized collections.

The Showcase educated participants on digitization issues and techniques through a variety of presentations. Exemplary digital imaging projects were highlighted from the following institutions:

- “Shannon County Film Digitization Project” (Missouri State University);
- “Digitizing a Card Index to Newspapers” (State Historical Society of Missouri and Office of Library Systems, University of Missouri);
- “Riches from the Earth: The Geological and Industrial Heritage of Jasper County, Missouri” (Powers Museum);
- “Missouri Women in the Health Sciences” (Bernard Becker Medical Li-

- “Edward Gardner Lewis and University City” (University City Historical Society and University City Public Library).

The Showcase featured a presentation by Carl Wingo, State Library Consultant and project manager for Virtually Missouri, on the plan to migrate Virtually Missouri’s collections to a different digital imaging software platform called CONTENTdm® by DiMeMa, Inc. Geri Bunker from DiMeMa, Inc. presented an overview of the features and functionality of CONTENTdm®. Wingo also conducted a session on funding availability for potential digitization projects through the State Library’s digital imaging

grants.

Evaluations from the Showcase were positive. Specifically, participants appreciated the opportunity to hear about best practices and techniques for digitization projects from “people in the trenches.”

Organizations interested in participating in the Virtually Missouri program or the State Library’s digital imaging grants should contact Carl Wingo at 800-325-0131, ext. 9 or carl.wingo@sos.mo.gov.

Summer Grants Announced

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan recently awarded the following grants to Missouri libraries. Grant funds are provided by the federal Library Services and Technology Act program and total \$503,398. More information about the LSTA grant funds offered by the State Library is available at www.sos.mo.gov/library/development/grants.asp.



Bring In An Expert

North Kansas City Public Library—\$1,500—Nine full-time staff will participate in the “Building an Effective and Cohesive Staff Team” project. Staff will complete an assessment tool to develop an individual profile. An expert will review the staff profiles to help create a plan for group development and establish core values, goals and objectives for library service.

Bollinger County Library—\$559—An expert will meet with library staff, county schools and city and county commissioners about new technology.

Livingston County Library—\$3,200—A computer consultant will be hired to review and update the library’s computer policies, specifically the long-range technology and disaster recovery plans. The consultant will also train information technology staff on the best practices and administration of Microsoft software.

Cedar County Library District—\$4,915—An expert will help design space at the El Dorado Springs branch of the Cedar County Library to improve the traffic flow and improve security for the patrons and staff.

Senior Fair

Cedar County Library District—\$1,793—The library will hold a fair to introduce the seniors of Cedar County to library services and to services in other counties of interest.

Training and Professional Development

Joplin Public Library—\$924—This workshop will target library supervisors in southwest Missouri with little or no human resources background. The workshop will cover such topics as appropriate interview questions, effective evaluations, staff training, documen-

tation and federal employment laws.

University of Missouri–Kansas City Health Sciences Library Network—\$1,980—This workshop is for librarians who work in or with the Missouri healthcare community and addresses information needs of hospital administration.

Gentry County Public Library—\$8,283—This grant will fund three workshops to teach participants how to create a disaster plan, repair materials damaged by a disaster and teach patrons disaster preparedness.

Planning and Standards

Trails Regional Library—\$15,000—A community survey will be conducted to gain insight into library use and potential library services to increase library usage. Results of the survey will be used to develop a long-range plan for future growth.

Cooperation

Washington University, Bernard Becker Library—\$14,950—This grant funds a program for ethnically and racially diverse high school students of St. Louis Public Schools to learn about human anatomy, both in a lecture and laboratory environment while interacting with Washington University medical students. Students will develop research skills as they write a paper about a scientific and/or medical topic they explore during this program. Students will then present the research during a luncheon held on the last day of the session.

Polk County Library—\$4,200—“Annie’s Project for Polk County” is a cooperative project between the library and the local University of Missouri Extension Office to provide education on financial planning, estate planning, using record keeping software and other topics related to the farm as a business. The project targets the women in rural Polk County as an often overlooked and underserved resource in the agricultural enterprise.

MOBIUS Consortium—\$42,500—This project will identify and analyze commonly and uniquely held titles in collections of public and academic libraries statewide and will assist in collaborative efforts for future collection development and management.

GED Online Study Groups

St. Louis Public Library—\$22,500—The library will continue the current GED Online Study Group program at two computer classroom facilities and a third laptop location using wireless access.

GED Connections/Workplace Essentials

St. Louis Public Library—\$30,000—The library will facilitate study groups held six times per week at four branches.

Website Makeover

Barton County Library—\$4,379

Keller Public Library—\$2,017

Neosho/Newton County Library—\$2,850

Sedalia Public Library—\$8,265

Riverside Regional Library—\$2,790

Technology Ladder

Albany-Carnegie Public Library—\$2,982—The grant will be used to upgrade the library’s wireless network to meet security standards.

Morgan County Public Library—\$1,650—The library will purchase a server to install a wireless network for public use.

Trails Regional Library—\$6,113—The library will purchase and install firewalls at each of eight branches.

Livingston County Public Library—\$5,069—The library will upgrade the wireless network to meet security standards and upgrade the library's network to a more secure server environment.

Polk County Public Library—\$2,430—The library will provide wireless internet access for patrons throughout the library.

Ray County Public Library—\$5,128—The library will purchase a server and five computers to replace outdated equipment and an additional computer for the children's librarian.

Library Technology Automation Enhancement

Missouri River Regional Library—\$11,068—This grant will assist with the installation of a self-checkout station.

Oregon County Public Library—\$33,052—This grant will support the second phase of an automation project.

Retrospective Conversion

University of Missouri—St. Louis, Mercantile Library—\$56,542—The **“Bureau of Railway Economics Collection”** project will catalog one of the most comprehensive railroad collections ever assembled and make it accessible to patrons worldwide via WorldCat. The collection is comprised of railroad association proceedings, travel guides, technical reports, maps, legal documents and other material reflecting the growth of railroads and their transformative influence on American life and culture.

Digital Imaging

Lincoln University—Inman E. Page Library—\$18,041—The **“52 Steps: The Journey of Lincoln University”** project will digitize the first 25 of 58 volumes of the Lincoln University yearbook, *Archives*. These volumes cover the years 1915–1959. This collection uniquely presents the evolutionary epic of African-Americans in higher education, specifically in Missouri. In addition to historical and administrative information about Lincoln University, this collection discloses the traditions, fashions, styles, major events and architecture of the 20th century through the medium of text and images.

Missouri State University—\$87,900—The **“Shannon County Film Digitization Project/Phase II”** project will digitize a portion of material from the Shannon County Documentary Films Collection.

University of Missouri—St. Louis, Mercantile Library—\$52,703—The **“Integrating the STL Mechanics Lien Papers”** project will continue its partnership with Virtual City Project to include Mechanics Lien papers in the digital urban archives currently being processed as part of the Missouri State Archives St. Louis Circuit Court Records Project.

University of Missouri—Columbia—\$16,208—The **“Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps”** project will digitize 6,280 large scale fire insurance maps for Missouri cities produced between 1880 and 1922.

Missouri Botanical Garden—\$17,351—The **“Mainstreaming Digital Imaging: Phase II”** project will create a mobile imaging workstation for use in completion of Phase I of the grant and explore new digital image formats.

Washington University—\$14,556—The **“Medical Immigrants to Missouri”** project will digitize several extraordinary archival collections pertaining to physicians and medical scientists who immigrated to Missouri from foreign countries in the 19th and 20th centuries. The project calls for digitizing, cataloging and indexing materials in a variety of formats, including photographs, text documents, oral histories and memorabilia from the collections of physicians and scientists such as Gustav Baumgarten, Leo Loeb, Carl F. and Gerty T. Cori, Valentina Sunzeff and Michel Ter-Pogossian.

ALA and Scholastic Library Publishing Announce 2007 National Library Week Grant

Libraries are invited to apply for the \$5,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a library for the best public awareness campaign incorporating the 2007 National Library Week theme, "*Come together @ your library®*." The grant is sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, a division of Scholastic and administered by the Public Awareness Committee of the American Library Association (ALA). This year's application deadline is October 16, 2006. National Library Week is April 15-21, 2007.

A grant application form and guidelines are available on the Campaign for America's Libraries Web site at www.ala.org/yourlibrary/nlwgrant. Information is also available from the ALA Public Information Office at 800-545-2433, ext. 4020 or mhumphrey@ala.org.

Online Applications Available for PLA Awards

The Public Library Association (PLA), a division of the American Library Association, has introduced a new Online Awards Application for its seven service awards. Members can now nominate their colleagues and libraries for PLA awards through the PLA Web site at www.pla.org.

The PLA awards are designed to highlight the best in public library service and to honor those whose vision and accomplishments are extraordinary and deserve recognition by their peers. The awards include:

Advancement of Literacy Award: honors a publisher, bookseller, hardware and/or software dealer, foundation or similar group (i.e. not an individual) that has made a sig-

nificant contribution to the advancement of adult literacy.

Allie Beth Martin Award: honors a librarian who, in a public library setting, has demonstrated extraordinary range and depth of knowledge about books or other library materials and has a distinguished ability to share that knowledge.

Baker & Taylor Entertainment Audio Music/Video Product Award: honors a librarian who promotes the development of a circulating Audio Music/Video collection in a public library.

Charlie Robinson Award: honors a public library director who, over a period of seven years, has been a risk taker, an innovator and/or a change agent in a public library.

Demco New Leaders Travel Grant: serves to enhance the professional development of new public librarians by helping them attend major professional development activities.

EBSCO Excellence in Small and/or Rural Library Service Award: honors a public library serving a population of 10,000 or less that demonstrates excellence of service to its community.

Highsmith Library Innovation Award: recognizes a library's innovative and creative service program to the community.

An award jury appointed by the PLA president will review each nomination. The deadline for submitting an application is December 1, 2006.

The award juries will review the applications and select a recipient at the ALA 2007 Midwinter Meeting. Award winners will be announced in February 2007, and each award will be presented at the PLA President's Reception and Awards Presentation held during the ALA Annual Conference.

For more information, contact the PLA office at 800-545-2433, ext. 5PLA or by email at pla@ala.org. To apply or nominate a colleague for an award, visit PLA's Web site at www.pla.org.



Missouri Library News

St. Louis Public Library Selected to Host Film Discussion Series

The St. Louis Public Library was one of 43 public and academic libraries named by National Video Resources (NVR), in partnership with the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office, as a pilot site for the documentary film viewing and discussion series “*Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form*.” This six-week initiative features six carefully curated viewing and discussion programs accompanied by a selection of compelling documentary films, essays written by eminent scholars and an extensive resource guide for additional reading, Web sites, videos and DVDs.

“*Looking At: Jazz*” explores the history of jazz music, an art form that evolved in the 20th century to occupy a unique place in American cultural history. Themes for the six programs in the series are: *New Orleans: The Birthplace of Jazz*; *The Jazz Age and the 1920s*; *The Women of Jazz*; *The Jazz Swing Era*; *Jazz Innovators: From Bebop, to Hard Bop, to Cool and More*; and *Latin Jazz*.

Each library selected for the project will receive materials and resources (films, written materials, publicity materials, access to an electronic discussion list and project Web site), inclusion in a training workshop and a cash grant of \$1,000.

“*Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form*” builds on five earlier programs developed by NVR in partnership with the ALA Public Programs Office and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. These programs offer public library programmers and academics a new model for public discussion through the following series: *From Rosie to Roosevelt: A Film History of Americans in WWII*; *Post War Years*, *Cold War*

Fears: American Culture and Politics, 1946-60; *Presidents, Politics, and Power: American Presidents Who Shaped the 20th Century*; *The Sixties: America’s Decade of Crisis and Change*; and *The World War I Years*. For more information on these series, please visit www.nvr.org.

MU SISLT Receives Grant for Librarian Recruitment, Education From IMLS

The University of Missouri–Columbia, School of Information Sciences and Learning Technologies received an award from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$615,365 for the “Educating Doctoral Students to Prepare the Next Generation of Public and Academic Librarians” project. The School of Information Sciences and Learning Technologies will recruit and educate nine library doctoral students and prepare them to join faculties and educate others in library and information science. Three new seminars will also be developed on the themes of intellectual freedom, libraries and learning communities, and categorization and classification. The University of Missouri–Columbia will match the grant with \$202,815.

Over \$20 million in grants have been announced from IMLS to help offset a current shortage of school library media specialists, library school faculty and librarians working in underserved communities, as well as a looming shortage of library directors and other senior librarians, many of whom are expected to retire in the next 20 years. Thirty-five awards will go to universities, libraries and library organizations across the country to recruit and educate librarians.

The announcement on June 26 was made during a national town hall meeting in New Orleans of local and national government officials, educators, business leaders and an audience of thousands of librarians from across the United States. The meeting, *School Libraries Work: Rebuilding for Learning*, focused on the essential role school libraries and librarians play in restoring learning and reuniting community in

times of crises. The American Library Association hosted the meeting as part of its annual conference at which 17,000 library professionals participated. It marked the first major convention in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina struck.

Since the multi-million initiative to recruit new librarians was announced in 2002, IMLS has funded 1,898 master's degree students, 145 doctoral students, 949 pre-professional students and 3,579 continuing education students. The multi-faceted grant program provides support for doctoral candidates to teach library science, and supports tuition assistance, curriculum development, service expectations, job placement, recruitment of non-traditional library students and research.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to grow and sustain a "nation of learners" because life-long learning is essential to a democratic society and individual success. Through its grant making, convenings, research and publications, the Institute empowers museums and libraries nationwide to provide leadership and services to enhance learning in families and communities, sustain cultural heritage, build 21st century skills and increase civic participation. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.

St. Louis Public Library Victim to Summer Blazes

The **Julia Davis Branch of the St. Louis Public Library** was victim to two separate fires during a two-week period this summer. On June 23, a small fire was set outside a window at the rear of the branch and caused little damage. On July 6, someone broke into the branch and set a gasoline fire in the African-American Studies collection area. Security and sprinkler systems quickly detected and extinguished the fire, and the branch was able to reopen on July 11. Nearly 500 books were lost and damage to the library is estimated at \$30,000 to \$35,000. Police and arson investigators are investigating both incidents.

Dunklin County to House Culinary Reference Center

The **Dunklin County Library** board has been selected to be the shelving site for the Marge Smith Hemingway Culinary Arts Reference Center. Hemingway, who passed away late last year, had a long career in public relations and was an important figure in the Memphis, TN, culinary world. The 2,000-piece collection includes hardbound cookbooks, paperback books and promotional brochures/booklets that total over 2,000 items dating from 1850 to present. It has several autographed and personally inscribed first edition cookbooks and other rare copies, such as *Miss Parloa's Apple-dore Cookbook* from 1872 and a 1918 edition of a Fannie Farmer Boston Cooking School cookbook. The room housing the collection will also feature framed, signed menus and photographs from leading chefs around the world. The library plans to eventually put the entire collection online, providing worldwide access.

New Statute Raises Bonding Limit for Libraries

Legislation has been approved allowing county and city-county library boards to issue bonds for up to five percent of the assessed valuation of property within the district. This is an increase from the current legal cap of one percent as identified in Section 182.105, RSMo. The higher bonding limit will give the affected library districts more flexibility in financing capital improvements. The new law is effective August 28, 2006. The final language of the bill can be viewed online at www.senate.mo.gov/06info/pdf-bill/tat/SB936.pdf.

Donations

The **Daviess County Library** has received a large donation from the estate of the late Franklin Wilder. Wilder was a resident of Gallatin and passed away in July 2004. The library received \$25,000 in May 2006, and will receive an additional \$19,919 and joint ownership of four gas

wells. The library intends to use the donation to remodel the exterior of the building. Jan Johnson, director of the library, said that the donation from Wilder is the biggest ever received from a private individual during her tenure at the library.

U.S. Cellular has awarded a \$60,000 grant to the **St. Louis County Library Foundation** that will be used to purchase a new 38 foot long bookmobile and to fund reading and learning programs. The bookmobile holds approximately 4,500 books.

The Helen S. Boylan Foundation of Carthage which primarily supports community development and children's services recently awarded a series of grants. The **Carthage Public Library** will receive \$12,500 to expand the library facility.

New Buildings

The **Marionville Library Building Fund** received a \$10,000 donation from Glen and

Sharon Garrett of First State Bank. This represents their third donation on a pledge of \$50,000 to the library building project. The Barry-Lawrence Regional Library Marionville Branch has recently constructed a new 5,900-square-foot building.

The **Camden County Library District Stoutland Library** held an open house in May to celebrate the opening of their new 1,640-square-foot facility. The new building allows for expansion of all library materials, a children's area and adult area.

Anniversary

The **Jefferson County Library** celebrated 15 years of service to the Fox, Windsor and Northwest School Districts in June. They marked the event with birthday parties at all three branches.



Personal Notes

newsline welcomes information for "Missouri Library News" and "Personal Notes" from librarians, library trustees, and others interested in the state's libraries. Send news about library events, projects, awards, and personnel changes to the editor. (See page 2 for contact information.)

New Appointments

Debbie Musselman joined the State Library staff as Consultant for Technology and Census Services on July 10, 2006. She will be responsible for managing the State Library's role in the REAL program, the Missouri Census Data Center and the videoconferencing network.

She comes to this position with a wide variety of library experience, having worked in school, public, medical and mul-



ti-type library systems prior to her tenure as administrative program coordinator for Wolfner Library, a division of the Missouri State Library in the Secretary of State's office.

Musselman has a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in library science, both from the University of Minnesota.

Patsy Rainwater is the new library director at Reynolds County Library District following the retirement of Joyce Sylcox. Rainwater previously served as librarian at the Ellington Branch.

Deaths

The Kirkwood Public Library lost cherished friend **Jill Raiser** on May 28, 2006, after a fatal accident in St. Louis. Jill served on the Kirkwood Public Library Board of Trustees from 1999–2005. She served as President the last two years. Jill has been the manager of the Friends of the Kirkwood Public Library Greentree Shop almost from its in-

ception seven years ago, and, during this time, she also served on the Friend's Board. She was recently elected to the Trustees and Friends Division of the Missouri Library Association.

Service Recognition

After 21 years at Chaffee Public Library, **Emily Whitfield** was honored with a plaque of appreciation at a farewell reception on May 20. Whitfield is moving to Cape Girardeau and plans to enroll in classes at Southeast Missouri State University. Linda Richbourg Welborn, the new librarian, assumed her duties on June 5.

MOBIUS Hires New Executive Director

Robert Frizzell, chair of the MOBIUS Council and director of libraries at Northwest Missouri State University, announced Beth Fisher as the new executive director of MOBIUS. Fisher replaces George Rickerson, who served as executive director since its beginning in 1998, and is now the associate vice president for administrative applications within the University of Missouri system.

Fisher was most recently the associate director for the information technology acquisitions department at Virginia Polytechnic University with primary duties involving contract negotiation and administration for the university's major software purchases. Prior to this position, Fisher managed the cost recovery research center at Virginia Tech, which performed competitive intelligence work and information support services for Virginia companies.



"The MOBIUS Executive Committee is very excited that Beth Fisher will be joining us as executive director," Frizzell said. "We believe Beth is the right person to lead our successful program of resource sharing among Missouri libraries and to expand that program into new areas of service."

Ms. Fisher's professional career includes service at the University of Kentucky, Towson State University, John Hopkins University, University of Texas at Austin, Cambridge University (England) and Virginia Tech. Her duties have included reference work, serials cataloging, departmental management in a number of areas and library fiscal and accounting assignments. She has also been active professionally at the local, state, national and international levels, including two terms as president of the Virginia chapter of the Special Libraries Association. Her international involvement includes ongoing assignments with the International Federation of Library Associations as well as invited workshops in Russia, Turkey and south Korea.

State Library Launches Early Literacy Initiative

Current research on reading and early literacy has proven the critical role parents and caregivers play in developing language and early literacy skills in young children. Public libraries play a key role in disseminating information about early literacy, not only to parents and caregivers, but also to early childhood educators, children's advocates and policy makers.

The State Library launched an early literacy initiative with the first in a series of *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* workshops in March and April. The program was developed by the Public Library Association (PLA) and the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), in cooperation with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health, and based on research conducted by the Institute. The training provides public library staff with the tools they need to help prepare parents for their critical role as their child's first teacher.

PLA launched *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* in select pilot sites in 2000 and 2001. A formal evaluation of the impact of the workshops indicates that:

- Participants significantly increased their frequency of sharing books with their children.
- When using suggested techniques, parents found sharing books with their children more enjoyable.
- Parents incorporated information learned in these programs into their behaviors, helping them be more effective "first teachers" with their children.
- Community partners recognized the library as a key player in the common public goal of helping children become successful readers and learners.

Fifty-eight public library staff completed the *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* six-hour training, which prepared them to conduct the workshops for parents in their communities. Most librarians know that early literacy skills are important to future success in reading and learning. Here

are some facts:

- Thirty-five percent of children in the U.S. enter school without the basic skills necessary for learning to read.
- For 60 percent of children, reading is not an easily acquired skill.
- There is nearly a 90 percent probability that, if a child is a poor reader at the end of the first grade, that child will remain a poor reader at the end of the fourth grade.
- Knowledge of alphabet letters at entry into kindergarten is a strong predictor of reading ability in 10th grade.
- Mothers from lower income groups engage in less shared picture book learning than mothers from middle-class groups.

Library staff who attended the training obtained a brief overview of three *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* parent workshops: Early Talkers (newborn to two-year-olds), Talkers (two- and three-year olds) and Pre-readers (four- and five-year olds).

Eleven libraries were awarded start up grants of up to \$3,500 for the *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* program. Funds will be used to purchase supplies and other resources to conduct a minimum of three parent workshops. Working with community partners to plan and implement the parent workshops is a key component of the grant program. All of the libraries receiving grant funding demonstrated resourcefulness and strong community-building skills in developing their local *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library®* projects. Since Parents as Teacher (PAT) educators are required to have a minimum of three group meetings each year, almost every grant recipient is partnering with its local PAT, and PAT educators are welcoming the partnership. Many libraries are also partnering with local day care providers and Head Start to reach at-risk parents. Other partners include the local school PTO, teen parent centers, Even Start, the YMCA, University Extension Centers, Caring Communities and agencies targeting at-risk families and fathers.

Staff at libraries receiving the grants will have the opportunity to complete a follow-up training designed to help them better understand the training materials, become more comfortable with presenting the workshops to parents and caregivers and discuss potential questions parents and caregivers might have at the workshops. Following this training, each grant recipient will complete at least three parent workshops and evaluate the impact of the workshops by December 2006.

The *Every Child Ready to Read@ your library*® staff training and grant opportunity will be offered again in October for all Missouri public library staff. For more information on *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*®, visit the PLA Web site at www.ala.org/ala/pla/plaissues/earlylit/earlyliteracy.htm. For more information about the State Library sponsored training and grant program, contact Nancee Dahms-Stinson, Youth & Senior Services Consultant at 800-325-0131, ext. 5 or nancee.dahms-stinson@sos.mo.gov.

Libraries receiving *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*® grants:

- Albany Carnegie Public Library, \$700
- Carrollton Public library, \$700
- Cedar County Public Library, \$836
- Kansas City Public Library, \$3,500
- Kirkwood Public Library, \$680
- Little Dixie Regional Libraries, \$700
- Marshall Public Library, \$650
- Mid-Continent Public Library, \$1,155
- Mountain View Public Library, \$700
- St. Clair County Public Library, \$700
- St. Louis Public Library, \$3,500

Humanities Council Offers Literacy Program for Families

Imagine a Missouri where every young child has an adult who reads to him/her regularly. The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) strives to make that a reality. Through the *READ from the START* program, trained discussion leaders educate parents about the importance of sharing

books and stories with children from birth to age five. *READ from the START* participants attend two 90-minute workshops where the discussion leader guides them through a selection of high quality children's books. The group talks about the illustrations, stories, real-life connections to the books, and ways to bring the books to life for children. The sessions are intended to be interactive and entertaining. The participants go away with an enthusiasm for sharing books with their children, as well as a set of seven wonderful children's books to keep. Through the generosity of private funders, *READ from the START* is free of charge to the parents who attend.

The Missouri Humanities Council partners with various nonprofit organizations and agencies throughout the state to bring *READ from the START* to parents. Programs have been held in libraries, early childhood programs, parent group meetings, churches, shelters and daycare centers. MHC works with these organizations to reach its target audience: parents of children through age five, many of whom are economically disadvantaged, facing literacy and education challenges and for whom books in the home might be a luxury. The organization requesting a *READ from the START* program recruits 15-20 parents to attend and provides the meeting place. MHC provides a trained discussion leader and the books and materials for a *READ from the START* program.

Requests for programs for fall 2006 and spring 2007 are being accepted right now. If you would like to learn more about *READ from the START*, visit the MHC Web site at www.mohumanities.org or contact Julie Douglas, Family Program Specialist at (800)357-0909, (314)781-9660 or julie@mohumanities.org.

Workshops Share Ideas, Resources for Bilingual Programs

The Missouri State Library offered a series of Bilingual Story Hour workshops high-

lighting the importance of outreach and community involvement when serving Latino populations. Workshop participants explored program development for Spanish and English bilingual story hours with accompanying activities such as crafts, songs and dance, bilingual outreach services and collaboration with community groups. Selection of bilingual materials, book discussions and program planning were included in the workshops. The sessions were active and interactive as the participants practiced many of the songs, dances and crafts recommended for programming. The workshops addressed the needs of library staff that were either fluent or non-fluent in Spanish. Participants from Missouri's public libraries were offered a grant opportunity to supplement the costs of a bilingual story hour programs and activities during the summer.

Workshop presenters were Dr. Denice Adkins, assistant professor at the University of Missouri–Columbia School of Information Science and Learning Technologies; Brandy Sanchez, Children's Library Associate with the Columbia Public Library; and Karen Drevo, Services and Circulation Librarian at Norfolk (NE) Public Library. Workshops were held in Springfield, Columbia and St. Joseph during April.

Study Reveals Importance of Libraries to Americans

Americans prize public library service in the Internet age and see libraries as well-equipped to meet 21st century challenges in their communities, a watershed study of public opinion released by Public Agenda shows.

According to the study, *Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public and Leadership Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century*, more than three quarters (78 percent) of Americans say that if their library shut down because of lack of funding they would feel "that something essential and important has been lost, affecting the whole community."

The research was conducted by Public Agenda with support from the Americans

for Libraries Council with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as part of a multi-pronged advocacy initiative to build knowledge about and support for America's public libraries.

The public sees libraries as particularly well-suited to find solutions to four pressing problems:

- Supplying more engaging services for teens.
- Fighting illiteracy and improving reading skills among adults.
- Providing free and ready access to information about government services, including making public documents and forms readily available.
- Providing even greater access to computers for all.

"The most compelling finding of the survey — especially for public leaders and policymakers — may be that libraries, more than being under-funded, are being under-leveraged," ALC President Diantha Dow Schull said. "Americans overwhelmingly believe libraries could do even more to inform and energize their communities — if we made more of an investment in them."

At the same time, the multi-level public opinion study identifies a troubling issue for library advocates. While 45 percent of Americans give their public libraries an "A," and a large majority of the public (71%) says their local library uses public money well, few Americans are aware of the increasingly tenuous financial picture faced by many libraries.

"For those of us in the library community, this study should be a long, loud wake-up call," Schull said. "It provides us with powerful ammunition to make a compelling case to policymakers about what invaluable assets libraries are and what a great investment in the future they can be. But it also shows that ammunition will be wasted if we as advocates do not engage and convince our elected officials to take a fresh look at the great work libraries are doing today."

For a full copy of the report, visit the Americans for Libraries Council Web site at www.lff.org/long_overdue061306.html.

Carnahan Launches Photo ID Awareness Initiative

Encourages Missouri voters to “Show your face at the polls”

Secretary of State Robin Carnahan has unveiled a photo ID awareness initiative designed to make Missouri voters aware of a new law that will require them to show valid photo IDs at the polls this November.

Governor Matt Blunt recently signed legislation that requires all Missouri voters to present a valid federal or state-issued photo ID to vote this November. This legislation may affect around 200,000 registered Missouri voters who currently lack the approved identification.

The law tasks the Secretary of State’s office with notifying Missouri voters of the new ID requirement while it assigns the Department of Revenue the responsibility of issuing IDs to the thousands of Missourians who need them.

Because the process may be time-consuming for some voters who lack certain types of documentation, Secretary Carnahan introduced the law and launched a public awareness initiative, entitled “*Show Your Face at the Polls*,” at a series of press events across the state on July 25.

The comprehensive “*Show Your Face at the Polls*” public awareness initiative will include outreach to voters who likely do not possess valid photo IDs; statewide media and public service announcements; photo ID Web site and toll-free help line; outreach to groups who can help voters who do not have valid photo IDs and general outreach to voters through community and business partners.

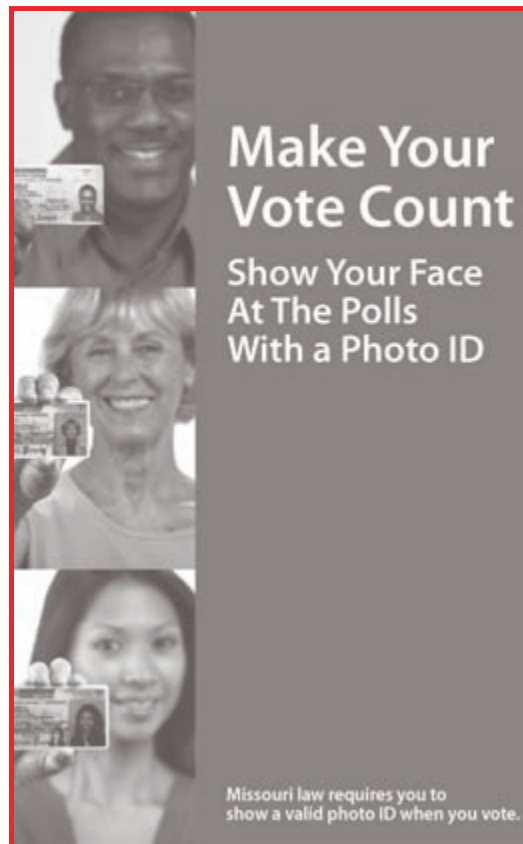
“We hope to reach not only those voters who do not currently have a valid photo ID, but also their friends and family members who can help them through the process,” said Carnahan. “In addition, we want to remind all voters, including those who have the necessary photo ID to remember to bring it to the polls in November.”

Carnahan is committed to ensuring that

this new law will not get in the way of legitimate, law-abiding Missourians’ constitutional right to vote and have that vote counted.

“There is nothing more sacred to our democracy than our right to vote. That’s why my office is doing everything possible to ensure all Missouri voters can still vote and have their votes count this November,” said Carnahan.

Libraries are encouraged to visit www.MoVoterID.com for more information.





Wild About Reading at St. Louis Public Library

Lisa Berman, Outreach Coordinator at the St. Louis Zoo, displays a boa constrictor from the zoo's collection, after reading *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, by Trinka Hakes Noble, to children attending a special videoconference event at the St. Louis Public Library. Berman read additional books and exhibited a bantam hen and a hedgehog during the special summer reading program event that was videoconferenced from St. Louis to remote audiences at the West Plains Public Library and Mississippi County Library in Charleston. More than 80 children attended the videoconference event coordinated by MOREnet. The St. Louis Zoo's 'Wild About Reading' program is sponsored in part by a Target Store grant.

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